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MELTON AND BELVOIR

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDING

31st. DECEMBER. 1954.

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MELTON & BELVOIR RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1954

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present herewith my sixteenth Annual Report dealing with matters within my responsibility regarding Public Health and preventive medicine :-

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	113,025
Registrar General's estimate of population. ...	18,640
Number of inhabited houses	5,718
Rateable value	£ 85,712
Sum represented by a penny rate	£ 359. 0. 1

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Males	Females	Totals
Births -	Legitimate	134	139	273
	Illegitimate	6	4	10
		140	143	283
Still Births -	Legitimate	3	4	7
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
		3	4	7

	Rate for District.	Rate for England & Wales.
Birth Rate	16.2	15.2
Death Rate	9.2	11.3
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ...	31.8	25.5

The Death Rate for the District is very low. The main causes of death are diseases of the heart and arteries which occur amongst people of advanced years.

Nine deaths occurred in infants under one year of age. The majority of these cases were due to prematurity which is now the most common single cause of infant mortality in the first month of life.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.
Tuberculosis Respiratory	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lungs, Bronchus	11	1
Malignant,Neoplasm, Breast	-	5
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	-	1
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	16	8
Diabetes	1	-
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	6	21
Coronary Disease, Angina	13	4
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1
Other Heart Disease	17	18
Other Circulatory Disease	9	8
Influenza	-	1
Pneumonia	3	2
Bronchitis	5	2
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	1	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	-
Congenital Malformations	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	8
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	-
Other Accidents	4	-
Suicide	1	-
Homicide and Operation of War	1	-
	106	82

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

J. Young, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Camb.)
Medical Officer of Health for the Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Districts in which this District is included.

L. Hesford, Sanitary Inspector.
Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute, Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board, Meat Inspector, Smoke Inspector.

W. P. Elliott - Additional Sanitary Inspector.
Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The following examinations have been carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Leicester :-

Faeces	81
Urine	33
Blood	1
Throat Swab.	43
Nose Swab	20
Milk	286
Ice Cream	13
Water	14
Sewage Swab.	16

Twenty-eight samples of water were submitted to the Leicester City Health Laboratory for bacteriological and chemical analyses. Following a case of Typhoid at Asfordby, 16 Sewage Swabs from the river were examined in the Public Health Laboratory.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1954.

Disease	Total cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Measles	24	-	-
Whooping Cough	66	1	-
Scarlet Fever	19	2	-
Pneumonia	31	1	5
Dysentery	12	-	-
Typhoid	1	1	-
	153	5	5

There was no epidemic of serious infectious disease during the year. The Scarlet Fever cases were of the usual mild type which occur nowadays. The great majority were treated at home. I am pleased to note that again there was no case of Diphtheria. Particulars of the Immunisation work carried out in the District are given at the end of the report.
One case of suspected Poliomyelitis was reported, but on admission to hospital was not confirmed.
A case of Typhoid occurred in a house where the water supply was contaminated by the river.

AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Under 1	1/3	3/5	5/10	10/15	15/25	25/35	35/45	45/65	65 and over.	TOTAL.
Measles	1	5	4	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Whooping Cough	4	12	22	22	6	-	-	-	-	-	66
Scarlet Fever	1	1	8	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	19
Pneumonia	-	4	3	7	1	2	2	1	9	2	31
Dysentery	-	1	2	5	-	1	1	1	1	-	12
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1

Tuberculosis.

Age Groups.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	2	6	-	-	-	1	-	-
35 - 46	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 45	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

Number of samples taken for analysis :-

(a) from wells	30
(b) from piped supply	12

Results of samples taken :-

from wells	-	satisfactory ...	7
		unsatisfactory ...	23
from piped supply	-	satisfactory ...	12
		unsatisfactory ...	Nil

Number of wells :-

(a) closed	-
(b) cleansed	4

Number of cases in which piped supply was substituted for well water	330
Number of Parishes without a piped water supply	4
Number of houses now on piped supply ...	2,940

Number of Parishes and part Parishes with piped water supply :-

(a) from public mains...	19
(b) from private reservoirs...	2

Sampling of some of the public wells has been carried out.

Existing Water supplies.

The Parishes of Ab Kettleby, Asfordby, Broughton and Dalby, Clawson and Harby, Stathern, Waltham (Thorpe Arnold Ward), Eaton (Eastwell Ward), Somerby, Burton and Dalby (Burton Ward), Sproxton (Sproxton and Saltby Wards), Gaddesby, Garthorpe, Grimston, Bottesford, Wymondham, Hoby, Knossington (Knossington Ward), Scalford, and Buckminster (Sewstern Ward) are supplied from the Council's Mains.

Schemes have been prepared and it is hoped they will be constructed during 1955 for water supplies to the parishes of Redmile, Waltham (Waltham Ward), Frisby, Croxton Kerrial. As a long term policy the Council have agreed to be constituent on the proposed River Dove Water Board, and will purchase in bulk from that Authority, to provide an adequate water supply for the whole of the area. Pending construction of the Dove Scheme it is the Council's intention to submit for approval to the Ministry schemes for the supply of water from temporary sources to such parts of their area as are not already supplied, the mains laid being so designed to fit in with the River Dove Scheme.

Stand pipes are not provided, the services being laid on to the Consumer's premises.

There is no indication of any tendency to plumbo solvency.

The Parishes of Belvoir, Buckminster (Buckminster Ward) are supplied by private piped supplies.

The rest of the District is supplied from public and private wells. The majority of the wells are 'shallow wells' of doubtful quality, and in many cases insufficient in quantity during dry periods.

Shortages have been experienced, particularly in Barkestone and Great Dalby, and Waltham and Croxton Kerrial, and it has been necessary to cart water to these villages during the summer and autumn months.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Number of cesspools in the District at the end of 1953	295
Number of cesspools abolished during the year	2
Number of cesspools constructed during the year	8

Again there are no new works of major importance to report, but schemes are being prepared for the parishes of Rotherby, Wymondham, Bottesford, Scalford, Harby and Hose.
The provision of adequate sewerage arrangements for the parishes without such an amenity are becoming urgently necessary, both from a Public Health point of view and from the finance angle, as only by the provision of Sewage Disposal Works can the heavy cost of nightsoil collection be reduced. It is also desirable that the water courses, ditches, which are at present polluted by sewage discharges should be cleaned up as soon as possible.

Closet Accommodation.

Total Number in the District at the end of 1954 :-

(a) Privies	320
(b) Pail Closets	2839
(c) Water Closets	2480

Public Cleansing.

During the year the Public Cleansing Service has been maintained and efficient service given with a fleet of modern vehicles comprising :-

1 Dennis	11 cu.yd.	Refuse Collector
1 S.D.	11 cu.yd.	Refuse Collector
1 S.D.	13 cu.yd.	Refuse Collector
2 S.D.	Combined Nightsoil and Cesspool Emptiers - 800 gal. capacity.	

and
1 Dennis Refuse collector on Salvage work.

Household refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping and no difficulty has been experienced here.
The disposal of nightsoil is to farms, when it is ploughed into the land as manure. There is at present no difficulty in disposal, and in view of the amount of ploughed land it is not anticipated that this will create a problem for the next year or two. The cost of nightsoil collections however, is continually rising and the Council should, as soon as possible, give serious consideration to the conversion of pail closets to water closets in order to reduce the cost of this service.

The present system of conversion is by voluntary methods and has resulted in the conversion of 52 pail closets to water closets during the year. This has no material influence in reducing the cost of the service, but if it were possible to arrange for the conversion of villages en-bloc a considerable saving would no doubt result.

The collection of salvage was continued during the year and the following weights of salvage were collected :-

30 tons.	8 cwts.	Baled Paper.
17 "	0 "	Baled Tins.

The revenue produced from this source during the year was £313. 0. 0d.

The Council is continuing to empty cesspools on request from the occupiers at a standard charge. There is, however, no collection of the contents of privy middens within the area.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The particulars given under this Heading are for all purposes including particulars given elsewhere in this report:-

Total number of complaints received	528
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered	103

	Inspections	Re-visits
Animal keeping	4	2
Bakehouses	40	47
Dairies etc.,	155	39
Drainage works	471	304
Dwelling Houses (all purposes)	1672	412
Food premises	195	116
Rats and mice destruction	1198	590
Refuse collection and disposal	561	58
Shops	141	43
Schools	14	3
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.,	27	19
Verminous premises	7	3
Water supplies	86	70
Workshops, etc.,	18	12
Other inspections	51	19
Slaughterhouses (during killing period).	521	-
	5161	1737

Notices

Preliminary	Housing	Other
Outstanding on 1st January	Nil	Nil
Issued during the year	19	8
Complied with during the year	19	8
Statutory action necessary	Nil	Nil
Outstanding on 31st. December	Nil	Nil

Statutory		
Outstanding on 1st. January	Nil	Nil
Issued during the year	Nil	Nil
Complied with during the year	Nil	Nil
Outstanding on 31st. December	Nil	Nil

Shops

Action taken during the year under the provision of the Shops Act, 1950 :-

	Outstanding from previous year.	Defects found.	Defects remedied.	Outstanding 31st. December.
Sanitary conveniences	Nil	8	8	Nil
Temperature	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ventilation	Nil	5	5	Nil

Regulated Buildings

Common Lodging Houses - There are no Common Lodging Houses in the area.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc., - There are 19 Vans in the District and 46 inspections were made.

These Vans are kept in a reasonably clean condition, several of them being occupied by very good families who are forced by the present housing shortage to take this means of accommodation.

H O U S I N G.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.... 970

   (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 994

2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932... 685

   (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 685

3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation... 79

4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 216

5. Number of Demolition Orders made 1

Remedy of Defects during the Year Without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 27

Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

1. (a) Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year. 125

(b) Number of families dwelling therein 143

(c) Number of persons dwelling therein 536

2. Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year 68

3. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. 80

4. Number of persons concerned in such cases 253

Provision of New Houses during the Year.

130 new houses were completed and occupied at the end of 1954. There were about 425 applicants on the Council Housing List at the end of the year and 131 new applications were received during 1954.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply	Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk other than Cowkeepers.
Number on the Register	42
Number of inspections of premises	155
Number of contraventions outstanding from previous year	Nil
Number of contraventions found during the year	9
Number of contraventions remedied during the year	9
Number of contraventions outstanding at 31st. December	Nil

Total Contraventions

	Outstanding from previous year.	Found during Year.	Remedied during Year.	Outstanding 31st. Dec.
Cleansing	Nil	3	3	Nil
Structural alterations	Nil	2	2	Nil
Utensils	Nil	4	4	Nil
Other	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Milk Sampling.

143 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological and biological examination. 135 were satisfactory and 8 unsatisfactory when subjected to the bacteriological test.
141 were satisfactory biologically and Brucella Abortus was found in 2.

No action was necessary under Article 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order.

Five supplementary licences have been issued in respect of pasteurised milk. One bottling licence for 'Tuberculin Tested' milk was granted.

Meat and Other Foods.

Private Slaughter Houses :-

Number in District 14
Number of visits 521

Knacker Yards. 1

Number of visits 6

Places where Food (other than Meat) are kept or prepared for sale.

Number of inspections 141

Slaughter Houses and Meat Inspection.

Following the de-rationing of meat, a survey was made of existing Slaughter Houses and a Conference called with the Butchers' Association to discuss the arrangements for the killing and distribution of meat within the area. Following this Conference fourteen Slaughter Houses were licenced and the owners carried out the necessary repairs and improvements required, and slaughtering for human consumption commenced on the 4th. July. Regular visits are made during the time of slaughter and all carcasses are examined.

The number of Slaughter Houses licensed is providing adequate service for the area with the possible exception of one village, where, by arrangement with the Ministry of Food, permission has been granted for the erection of a small private slaughter house.

From July to the end of December the following carcasses were examined :-

Beast	415
Sheep	1024
Pigs	330
Calves	6

The following meat etc., was condemned :-

	Cwts.	Qrs.	Sts.	Lbs.
Beef	19	2	0	0
Mutton		1	0	13
Pork		3	0	1
Offal	6	1	0	13

	Ton.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Sts.	Lbs.
TOTAL -	1	6	3	1	13

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47. Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

Investigations were carried out into a few cases, but no formal action was taken by the Council under this Section during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN YOUNG

Medical Officer of Health.

10, High Street,
Melton Mowbray.

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

National Health Service Act. 1946.

Section 26 - Diphtheria Immunisation.

Melton & Belvoir Rural District.

Number of children who were immunised during the period 1st.January - 31st.December,1954.

Age at 31.12.54 (Born in year).		Primary Immunisation.	Booster Dose.
Under 1	1954	19	-
1	1953	173	-
2	1952	34	-
3	1951	8	1
4	1950	5	1
5	1949	10	93
6	1948	4	11
7	1947	2	6
8	1946	-	6
9	1945	1	2
10	1944	-	2
11	1943	-	1
12	1942	-	-
13	1941	-	-
14	1940	-	-
		256	123